

(2) UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, DOES NOT APPLY TO AN ADOPTION CASE FILED ON OR BEFORE ~~SEPTEMBER 30~~ DECEMBER 31, 2005.

COMMITTEE NOTE: This section is new and added to make the scope of this new subtitle clear. This addition is not intended to limit the access to records in cases filed ~~or postadoption contact agreements entered into on or before October 1, 2005~~ on or before ~~September 30~~ December 31, 2005. Defined terms: "Child in need of assistance" § 1-101

"Guardianship" § 5-301

"Local department" § 1-101

5-303. STATEMENT OF FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

(A) STATEMENT OF FINDINGS.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THIS SUBTITLE ARE DESIRABLE AND SOCIALLY NECESSARY.

(B) PURPOSES.

THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE ARE TO:

(1) TIMELY PROVIDE PERMANENT AND SAFE HOMES FOR CHILDREN CONSISTENT WITH THEIR BEST INTERESTS;

(2) PROTECT CHILDREN FROM UNNECESSARY SEPARATION FROM THEIR PARENTS;

(3) ENSURE ADOPTION ONLY BY INDIVIDUALS FIT FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY;

(4) PROTECT PARENTS FROM MAKING HURRIED OR ILL-CONSIDERED AGREEMENTS TO TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS;

(5) PROTECT PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS BY GIVING THEM INFORMATION ABOUT CHILDREN AND THEIR BACKGROUNDS; AND

(6) PROTECT ADOPTIVE PARENTS FROM FUTURE DISTURBANCES OF THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN BY FORMER PARENTS.

COMMITTEE NOTE: This section is derived from former FL § 5-303.

In subsection (a) of this section, the former clause "that concern adoption" is deleted as the findings apply to guardianship as well.

In subsection (b)(1) of this section, reference to "timely" provision of "permanent and safe homes ... consistent with [the children's] best interests" is substituted for the former reference to "stable homes that protect ... safety and health", to emphasize the need for prompt resolution of a case in accordance with the "best interests" standard applicable under, e.g., former FL §§ 5-311(b)(2), 5-313(a), (c), and (d)(1) and (3), 5-317(g)(1), 5-319(f)(1) and (2) and (g)(1), and 5-323(a)(2).